

Now Hiring:

Undergraduate Tufted Puffin Bill Load Photographer



Job Description

The [Seabird Oceanography Lab](#) at Oregon State University is hiring one eligible* university undergraduate to serve as a seasonal field technician from 7/01/2024 to 8/19/2024 to conduct bill load photography of tufted puffins, monitor disturbances by eagles, interact with the public, curate photos, and identify prey items in photos. The field work will occur in Cannon Beach, Oregon beginning on July 5, with an initial 1-3 day training period in Newport, Oregon. Start date is slightly flexible.

The Tufted Puffin photography technician must be able to work solo with minimal supervision. Field work will be scheduled to capitalize on low tides and conditions suitable for photography. This includes very early mornings, evenings, and weekends. It is anticipated the technician will spend 2-5 hr in the field each day when conditions are good. The technician will be expected to curate photos on a regular basis and review photos for initial prey identification following protocols and using a custom bill-load identification guide. Experience in technical wildlife photography is highly advantageous. The applicant will be using a Sony A9 with a FE 200-600mm f/5.6-6.3 G OSS Lens and a 1.2x teleconverter to photograph flying puffins with bill loads. Experience with a similar system to photograph flying birds is also highly advantageous.

The successful applicant should be able to carry loads upwards of 30 lbs. Accommodation will be provided from 7/5/2024 to 8/16/2024 in Cannon Beach and Seaside. Applicants are expected to be able to provide their own vehicle. The technician will be paid at \$13.20/hour with a maximum work load of 150 hours throughout the entire appointment period. A daily per diem for meals (\$40/day) will be provided along with travel reimbursement (includes mileage reimbursement to Oregon and field commutes).

***All applicants must be enrolled as at least half-time students at an undergraduate institution during Spring and Fall 2024 to be considered for this position.**

Duties and Responsibilities

- Photograph tufted puffins and other marine birds carrying bill loads at Haystack Rock.
- Document disturbances by eagles and other causes during photography sessions.
- Curate photos on a regular basis.
- Follow bill load identification protocols and identify prey items
- Use field notebooks, datasheets, and a laptop to maintain records and databases.
- Regularly clean and maintain camera gear.
- Conduct all work in accordance with the Oregon State University safety requirements
- Maintain professional and positive working relationships on the job and in living quarters.

Minimum Qualifications

- Enrolled as at least a half-time student at an undergraduate institution during Spring and Fall 2024. The selected applicant will be required to show proof of enrollment via a letter from the university registrar or other similar document.
- Technical photography experience
- Bird observing experience
- Computer skills including Microsoft Office and Google Suite
- Proven track record of working in a safe and efficient manner
- Ability to lift and carry 30 lbs
- Capable of working variable schedules including early mornings and weekends
- Ability to work in cold conditions.
- Ability to work in the United States

Preferred Qualification

- Experience and skill photographing birds with at least a 300mm lens.
- Strong interest in photography, ecology, marine birds, and conservation.
- Demonstrated ability to work solo with minimal supervision.

Application Instructions

All applications must be completed through the Oregon State University jobs portal at the following link <https://jobs.oregonstate.edu/postings/150296>. Interested applicants will be required to make an account on the job portal to apply. Applications must include a resume/CV and a cover letter addressing relevant experience and interest in the position. Note that this job listing is designed as a pool hire for several positions within the Seabird Oceanography Lab; your cover letter should specifically address that you are interested in the “Tufted Puffin Bill Load Photography Technician” position. Please email rachael.orben@oregonstate.edu with any questions about the position or the application process. Review of applications will begin on April 22nd, 2024 and applications received after this date will not be considered for this position.